SINGLE TELEPHONE NUMBER ACCESS TO MULTIPLE
COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

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TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to telecommunications systems
5   and more particularly to providing single telephone number access to multiple
communications services.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In conventional telecommunications systems, a number of different
telecommunications services are offered to subscribers. Each telecommunications
10   service requires a unique telephone number. Examples of telecommunications services
that require a unique telephone number are automatic routing services, voicemail
services, facsimile services, paging services, cellular phone services and personal 800
numbers. One of the drawbacks of each service requiring a different telephone number
is that managing and publishing multiple telephone numbers for a subscriber that uses
15   multiple communications services can prove to be quite cumbersome. For example, a
subscriber may have to provide a first telephone number for facsimile services, a second
telephone number for voicemail services, and a third telephone number for cellular
services. Thus, a subscriber must remember all of the unique telephone numbers and
must make clear to people whom the subscriber gives the telephone numbers what
20   services are associated with what telephone numbers. Oftentimes, a party confuses the
mapping of telephone numbers to services and reaches the wrong service when dialing
the telephone number that was given to the party. For instance, a caller may dial a
number thinking that he will reach a person and instead the caller reaches a facsimile
machine.

25   Another drawback of conventional systems is the lack of flexibility
regarding the telecommunications services that are provided to subscribers. A
subscriber may need to provide access to different services to different people at various
times. For example, a subscriber may need to have phone calls directed to the